



Connecting Research to Practice: Increasing Graduation Rates by Creating a System of Supports

August 11, 2010
Detroit, Michigan

Agenda

8:30 – 9:15 a.m.

Registration and Practice Guide Review

*During facilitated conversations, participants will review **Grad Nation** and the IES Practice Guide, **Dropout Prevention**. Guided questions might include the following:*

- *What are you currently doing in your school or district to provide supports for struggling learners?*
- *Review the recommendations in both documents. Which of these actions are you currently implementing? Which would you like to learn more about?*
- *What obstacles might you face in implementing the recommendations and how might you overcome those roadblocks?*

9:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

- **Presenter:** Sara Wraight, REL Midwest

Welcome from the Michigan Department of Education

Overview of the agenda for the day, the REL Network, and Bridge events

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Framing the Conversation: Meeting the Superintendent's Challenge to Increase the Graduation Rate in Michigan

- **Keynote Presenter:** Nettie Legters, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University
- **Commentators:**
 - District leader
 - School leader

Review of the research related to high school dropout rates, the importance of the transition from middle school to high school, and the development of a comprehensive system of interventions and supports that are designed to prevent students from dropping out of high school.

Commentators will describe their programs and highlight successes, challenges, and lessons learned.

(45 minute keynote presentation and 45 minutes for 3 commentator presentations – 15 min. each)

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Collaborative Discussion with Panel

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Working Lunch: Review of Evidence-Based Resources on the Doing What Works Website

- **Presenter:** Sara Wraight, Learning Point Associates

REL Midwest staff will introduce the participants to the DWW website related to the IES Practice Guide and highlight several resources that might be helpful for school and district leaders

(15 minutes for participants to visit the buffet, 30 minutes for review of DWW, 15 minutes for participants to discuss how they might use these resources in their schools or districts).

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Research-based Interventions and Supports for Struggling Learners

- **Keynote Presenter:** Martha Mac Iver, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University
- **Commentator:** Representative: Diplomas Now – Detroit

Dr. Mac Iver will present her research about early warning systems and the Diplomas Now pilot in Philadelphia.

(45 minute presentation and 15 minutes for Q&A)

2:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Transition

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.

Reflections and Connections

Staff from ISDs in Michigan, the Michigan Department of Education and REL Midwest staff will facilitate role-alike (e.g. teachers, principals, district leaders, etc.) group discussions about the research and resources that were presented to help the participants reflect on how to systematically apply the research that was presented to their school or district context.

Facilitators will guide the participants through one or more of the following tools from Grad Nation:

- *Tools 17-19: Comprehensive Community Solutions*
- *Tool 21: Asset Mapping for Individuals and Organizations*

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Transition

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Sharing Connections and Concluding Remarks

▪ ***Presenters:***

- Nettie Legters, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University
- Martha Mac Iver, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Mac Iver and Dr. Legters will highlight themes from the day, respond to questions from the audience and offer concluding remarks.

4:00 p.m.

Adjourn